The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1527 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 16, 1940 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 30, NO. 29

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

In his Washington office behind sound-proofed walls and bullet-proof windows sits the loneliest man in America, deserted by his former friends and supporters, ridiculed by every newspaper in the country, the leader of a vanishing army. This man has lost the loyalty of his followers because he never was loyal to anyone but himself. He has lost the respect of his associates because he never respected anyone's views but his own. He has lost face because he could not be self-effacing. He has lost the CIO because he could not see it in anything but a stepping-stone for his personal ambition.

John L. Lewis is through. He may hide away in his office and cut himself off from contact with the outside world but he cannot dodge his fate. He may still dream about power and glory but the realities that face him are defeat and disgrace. He may not yet see the handwriting on the wall but he ought to be able to read it in the newspapers.

Let us read it to him with any interpretation that may be necessary.

The keynote is sounded by Philip Murray, CIO vice president and always regarded as Lewis' closest lieutenant. Mr. Murray in an interview reported in the New York Herald Tribune differed sharply with his chief on the third-term question and said "that so far as he knew Mr. Lewis was the only major CIO leader who was opposed to President Roosevelt's renomination." He denied that this augured any move to oust Lewis from the CIO Presidency "at this time." The newspaper reporter went on to point out that it was doubtful whether such a move could be made until the next CIO convention.

In a former day if Murray were merely to think in the privacy of his own mind about ousting Lewis he would be considered such thoughts treasonous. Now he discusses the subject publicly. That, in our opinion, indicates the handwriting on the wall.

"On His Way Out"

But let us go further. In the city of Rochester, N. Y., CIO officials were even more outspoken than Murray. The CIO industrial council, which passes as a central body for local unions, held an indignation meeting against Lewis which was reported in the Rochester Chronicle and Democrat. The paper quotes Fred Bunn, council vice president, as saying:

"John L. Lewis is on his way out."

John H. Cooper, President of the council, said:

"In my opinion he (Lewis) has done more harm to the CIO throughout the country than he has done good in organising workers. The CIO has become a laughing stock in the country because of his silly remarks. Something must be done to check his work or the CIO is going down hill."

Mrs. Anna Rosen, a delegate from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, said:

"I think we should let him (Lewis) know he doesn't speak for labor."

The council proceeded to do this by adopting a resolution condemning Lewis' political policies. Only two delegates voted against the resolution.

In Washington, the authors of the Washington Merry-Go-Round, a syndicated column, have for years been friendly to Lewis and have usually given him oceans of favorable publicity. But the other day the column contained this significant observation:

"No matter how much he may do for labor, no one can please John L. Lewis."

Paul Mallon's syndicated column, also from Washington, refers to Sidney Hillman's attitude toward the United Construction Workers. Hillman called this a paper organization and "left the impression" that he had opposed its formation.

High and Dry

Now, to Chicago. There the CIO United Auto Workers came out with a statement endorsing Roosevelt which, the New York Times said, "was intended by its authors to split the third-party movement or other independent action contemplated by John L. Lewis."

And then, along comes Senator Burton K. Wheeler who for months has been flirting with Lewis and was the leading Democrat President on a third party ticket. And what does the Senator do? Just when Lewis thought he had Wheeler all pepped up and ready to go, the Senator flatly refused to start. He issued a statement eliminating himself entirely from the Presidential race.

Perhaps Mr. Wheeler had heard from back home, where the Montana State Federation of Labor had refused to endorse him. Perhaps he heeded the warning that the American Federation of Labor would oppose any Lewis candidate. Perhaps he suddenly realized that Lewis had no votes to deliver. At any rate, he got out of the picture in a hurry and left Lewis high and dry.

That's where Lewis is now—high and dry and alone. The only supporter he has left—excuse the pun—is the Communist Party. It pounces on him in the absence of any other candidate for the "kiss of death," Lewis may hear and heed an inner call to run for President himself? We wouldn't be surprised— we couldn't be—by anything he does any more.

Labor Officials Deny That Industry Is Migrating From New York State

Albany, N. Y.—Representatives of labor vigorously denied assertions that industry is migrating from New York State.

Speaking at a legislative conference on labor and industrial problems, Julius Hochman, vice president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, assailed reports that labor was responsible for an exodus of business.

Hochman termed as "unfortunate" an attack on labor during a similar hearing before the committee representatives of business.

He referred to a report by Melvin Brown, vice president of the board of directors of the New York Real Estate Board, that business was leaving the State because of "constant stoppages caused by labor over alleged minor infractions of labor agreements."

"Such people have all the solutions —that is to blame it on labor," Hochman said. "But reduce wages and workers won't have enough money to pay rent."

Edward W. Edwards, secretary-treasurer of the State Federation of Labor, said the exodus allegations were "grossly exaggerated."

Edwards said the federation would cooperate in recommending measures to curtail any migration but believed if the committee finds such a fact to exist.

The committee called a conference of labor, business and industry in the capital July 23 to end the migration problem. It is expected to assist the committee draft its report to the 1941 State Legislature.

Sixty-one New Locals Chartered By AFL United Textile Workers

Washington, D. C.—Rapid and far-reaching progress in organization work was reported by Secretary-Treasurer Anthony Valente, of the United Textile Workers of America.

A total of 61 local unions have been chartered by the United Textile Workers of America, Valente revealed, since the union revolted from the CIO and rejoined the A. F. of L. Many of these locals were taken away from the CIO.

In accordance with provisions of the International Union constitution two new federations have been re-established, viz., the Wooten and Worsted Federation and the Woven Label Federation. The Woven Label group came over en masse from the CIO several months ago because the union, through its "joint board" ideas, insisted on local union paying 90 cents per capita tax, out of every dollar collected in addition to assessments.

The International Union now is engaged in the work of setting up federations for the knit goods workers, the dyeing, bleaching and finishing workers, the cotton workers and the rayon workers. Need for such federations or departments long has been apparent through years of experience by the old United Textile Workers of America Union.

WASH.-TIMES-HERALD SIGNS NEWSPAPER SERVICE PACT

Washington, D. C.—The Washington Times-Herald, one of the four daily newspapers here, signed a contract for its employes in the service detail department who are members of the Newspaper Service Employes Union No. 22201, a Federal Local Union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

The contract gives the employes increased remuneration, forty-hour week, time and one-half for all work in excess of forty hours, legal holidays off with pay, severance clause (maximum of twenty-four week's pay), and vacations with pay. A joint standing committee to take care of grievances and complaints, with the provision of arbitration if necessary, is also provided. The contract will run for two years and automatically renew itself for successive periods of one year each.

The negotiators for the contract were William C. Shelton and J. F. Stranford, representing the Times Herald; Joe Warner and George Greenberg, representing the union, and Frank Welkel and George L. Russ, representing the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Russ said he believed "this is the first contract ever signed by the American Federation of Labor for this class of employment."

Working Hours Will Not Be Raised In Defense Program, President Says

Cites Report From Fleming Showing No Need of Lengthening Work Day.

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt declared at a press conference that the administration would go ahead with its present policy of maintaining standards under the Wage-Hour Act for work on the defense program.

Mr. Roosevelt read to reporters a letter from Col. Philip B. Fleming, wage-hour administrator, in which he decried the question of raising the ceiling for hours, above which time and a half must be paid.

Col. Fleming informed the President that any complaints from key defense plants that the present hour of time and a half for overtime was making their operation difficult would be brought promptly to Mr. Roosevelt's attention. The administrator added that only three such complaints, all from small establishments, had been received.

"Were there any defense need in certain industries for abrogation of the time and one-half rule," Col. Fleming wrote, "nothing could keep me from so reporting. In my contacts with industry no such need has yet been demonstrated to me."

Describing the letter as an interesting checkup by an independent source, the President said he had not asked for it, that it had arrived and that in view of its contents the administration's present policy would be continued.

Col. Fleming cited an order issued by the Army chief of ordnance on November 15, 1917, when the country was at the height of its World War procurement effort.

The order said industrial history proved that "reasonable hours, fair working conditions and a proper wage scale are essential to high production." It was said industrial safeguards, the order declared, would be short-sighted and lead gradually toward lowered production.

Col. Fleming asserted maximum production today calls for maximum efficiency of the machine. This, he said, usually is obtained by using relays of workers in shifts sufficiently short to make constantly intense effort possible.

The public's attention, he said, should be called to the fact that the French 40-hour week in effect from 1936 to 1938 was a "rigid limitation" with little resemblance to our "ceiling for hours." He noted also that Germany was on an 8-hour day, the hour-week basis from 1934 to the start of 1939, at which time the hour week began in non-defense industries because of a labor shortage.

The administrator quoted from a survey which said inauguration of the longer work week resulted in a 15% decline in production, "accompanied by such an alarming increase of industrial accidents and stoppages as to attract the serious attention of the government authorities."

"We Will Not Send Men to Europe," Roosevelt Promises the Nation

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt in a special message to Congress declared "we will not use our arms in a war of aggression" and "we will not send our men to take part in European wars." He asked for an additional five billion dollars for defense purposes.

This was the first public declaration from the President against American involvement in European conflicts.

The message had an immediate two-fold effect: It paved the way for making this country impregnable against any aggressor and it spiked the guns of those in this country who have been attacking the Government's policy of all-out aid.

The objectives set forth by the President to be realized with the additional defense funds were:

1. To carry forward the naval expansion program designed to build up the navy to meet any possible combination of hostile naval forces.

2. To complete the air equipment for a land force of about 1,200,000 men, though this total would not be in the army in time of peace.

3. To procure reserve stocks of tanks, guns, artillery, ammunition, etc., for another 800,000 men, or a total of 2,000,000 men if a mobilization of such a force should become necessary.

4. To provide the manufacturing facilities, public and private, necessary to produce critical items of equipment required for a land force of 2,000,000 men, and to produce the ordnance items required for the aircraft program of the army and navy —guns, bombs, armor, bombsights and ammunition.

No Procurement of 15,000 more planes for the army and 4,000 for the navy.

Government Mediation Halts Strike Of 30,000 Railway Express Employes

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt invoked his powers under the Railway Labor Act to appoint a board to function for at least 60 days a threatened Nationwide strike of 30,000 Railway Express Co. employees.

The President created a three-man board to investigate the dispute between the company and employes represented by the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employes.

President George H. Harrison, of the Brotherhood, said the dispute grew out of the agency's refusal to grant the 30,000 employees involved a 44-hour week, although it had granted such a work week to 5,000 other employees represented by the Teamsters Union. Harrison's membership now has a 40 hour week.

"We will not continue to work under this unjustifiable discrimination," Harrison said.

The President stepped into the controversy after the two disputants had tried unsuccessfully to settle their differences by mediation under auspices of the National Mediation Board. An agreement on points at issue and no agreement to arbitrate could be reached. Consequently, as prescribed by law, the President created a three man board.

Members of the Special Board are: Henry A. Milles, Professor of Economy and Sociology at the University of Chicago; Dexter M. Keezer, President of Reed College at Portland, Ore., and John P. Devaney, former Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

The board has 30 days in which to make findings and 30 days to write and submit its report. During the intervening 60 days the status quo is mandatory.

Communists Win Control of CIO Guild, Refuse to Condemn Reds and Nazis

Memphis, Tenn.—Communist forces won complete control of the CIO American Newspaper Guild at the annual convention here.

The new officers of the Guild were re-elected despite charges of "incompetent and destructive factionalism." Kenneth Crawford, of Washington, was defeated for re-election as unpaid President after he had led a fight on the Communist faction and Donald M. Sullivan, of Boston, was elected President to succeed him.

The convention refused to vote for the adoption of a minority resolutions committee report condemning Communism, Nazism and Fascism by name. Its action was strikingly similar to that of the recent convention of the American Youth Congress which strictly follows the Communist Party line.

In order to gag public charges of Communist control, the convention delegates were maneuvered into an agreement to refrain from "red-baiting" on the plea that the CIO union should not make a display of disharmony within the ranks.

Another ludicrous feature of the convention was the fact that this union of newspapermen barred working newspaper reporters from its first session which was held behind closed doors in an effort to hush up the bitter animosity between the anti-Communist minority and the Red group in control of the union's affairs.

200,000 APPAREL WORKERS BENEFIT BY MINIMUM WAGE

Washington, D. C.—The Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor estimated that approximately 200,000 garment workers throughout the nation would receive increased wages under the order of Col. Philip B. Fleming, administrator, whose order establishing minimum wages of 22½, 35, 37½ and 40 cents an hour for employees engaged in the manufacture of wearing apparel for men, women and children went into effect July 15.

Twenty-seven textile firms located in Southern States filed a suit to enjoin from the United States Circuit Court of Appeals here staying the order temporarily until a decision of the court regarding the legality of the order, which the firms challenged mainly because it does not provide sectional wage differentials. The court's stay affected only the firms which had joined in the petition. Posting of bonds was required to insure proper payment of the wage rates if the order is affirmed.

News Briefs

STRIKE SETTLEMENT AIDS N. Y. GARMENT WORKERS

New York, N. Y.—A conference representing the 85,000 New York City coat and suit makers and four employer associations, called at Albany by Governor Lehman, ended a two-day stoppage that tied up all production of women's cloaks in the nation's metropolis. The conference adopted a program intended to protect New York manufacturers from out-of-town competition. The strike was called by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The Merchant Ladies' Garment Association, representing jobbers, withdrew its demand for modification of a clause in the old agreement limiting the number of contractors to whom each jobber could give work. All other issues were referred to an impartially constituted board of stability and control.

President Dubinsky of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union said the union had kept uppermost in its mind Governor Lehman's admonition that, in these trying times when national defense is the paramount problem of our country both labor and industry must cooperate for the general welfare."

"The union made no proposals for increases in wages or shortening of the work week," Mr. Dubinsky declared, "and it already has a settlement on measures designed to insure greater order and stability in the industry."

FRISCO UNIONS PLAN APPRENTICE TRAINING

San Francisco, Calif.—A joint meeting of representatives of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council and the Bay Counties Metal Trades Council approved a broad scale plan for training apprentices in the national defense program. Delegates from the Metal Trades Council represented 21 unions that will have a total part in ship building work, and the Building Trades representatives included electrical, sheet metal and other craftsmen.

The Building and Construction Trades Council already has a statewide apprentice training programs in effect in construction work, according to Archie Green, secretary of the California Council. John H. Smith, state elected chairman of the joint committee, which adopted the approved Federal definition of an apprentice.

JOBS FOR 79,513 FOUND BY PA. EMPLOYMENT UNIT

Harrisburg, Pa.—The Pennsylvania State Employment Service placed 2,905 persons in gainful work during the week ending June 28, bringing the 1940 placement total to 79,513, Secretary of Labor and Industry Lewis G. Hartman announced. Applications for employment numbered 30,276, an average daily drop of 1,-267 from the week before, but five per cent above the May average.

Original claims for unemployment insurance totaled 10,591 in the reporting week, a decrease of 1,756 from the week before, but a drop of one per cent from the average week the month before. Benefits paid during the week amounted to $1,-058,842 or a relative increase of 16 per cent over the preceding week, and 13 per cent less than disbursements for the average week in May. Over $256,000,000 has been disbursed this year to Pennsylvania's eligible jobless workers.

MINIMUM PAY RATES URGED FOR CARPET, RUG WORKERS

Washington, D. C.—The Carpet and Rug Industry Committee, established under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, reported to Col. Philip B. Fleming, Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, that it had voted to recommend a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour for that part of the industry engaged in manufacturing wool carpet yarns and wool rugs and carpets, and a minimum of 35 cents an hour for workers on carpets and rugs made of other fibers.

"Should these minimum wages be approved by the Administrator after a public hearing, in which interested parties may appear in support of or opposition to the proposal, they would increase the hourly wage rates of about 1100 workers in the carpet and rug industry," the Wage and Hour Division said. "About 1,000 of these will be raised to 40 cents an hour. The total number of workers in the industry approximates 31,000."

The report was unanimously signed by the committee, consisting of four representatives of the public, four of the employes, and four of the employers.

WINDOW CLEANERS' DEATH BRINGS AWARD OF $8,500

San Francisco, Calif.—The California State Industrial Accident Commission announced that through its attorneys the widow of J. D. Face, window cleaner killed in a fall from the Phelan Building had been awarded compensation totaling $8,500 by the State Industrial Accident Commission. The award was divided into two parts: $6,000 normal compensation, and $2,500 penalty for serious and wilful misconduct by the employer because of failure to provide a safe place to work.

Green Praises Administration's Record; Says Labor Standards Must Be Upheld

HUGE GAINS CITED AS WAYMEN MEET

President Fljozdal Reports Union Strongest In History.

Quebec, Can.—Fred H. Fljozdal, President of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes, reported to its triennial convention here that this A. F. of L. union is stronger today than ever before in its history.

He declared that the union's membership is growing rapidly, that it has strengthened its finances and that the management of its affairs is marked by "internal harmony, loyalty and wholesome cooperation on the part of all officers and members."

Fljozdal revealed that of the entire 21 Standard Railroad Labor Organizations, our Brotherhood has the largest membership, with only one exception." He added:

"During the three-year period covered by this report, we have extended our representation to 48 additional roads, and seven other roads where representation is established but where agreements have not yet been completed.

"At the present time, we hold 185 separate contracts covering maintenance of way employes on 300 railways, or units of roads, in the United States, Canada, Newfoundland and Alaska.

"In so far as the Class I mileage of the United States is concerned, we now hold agreements with railroads covering 220,000 miles, or 93 per cent of the total. In addition, we have many agreements covering Class II or smaller railroads.

"The only major system in the United States which is not now represented by our Brotherhood is the Santa Fe, and I have good reason to believe that, before another triennial convention is held, our representation will be extended to that property.

"In Canada and Newfoundland, we represent practically 100 per cent of the entire railroad mileage."

Fljozdal also reported progress in securing time-and-one-half pay for overtime work, and in raising the wages of the lowest-paid maintenance of way workers by using the machinery of the Wage-Hour Act.

Not only was $400,000 recovered for Atlantic Coast Line employes who had been paid less than the 30-cent minimum required by law, but the Brotherhood also fought a long battle for 40-cent minimum for all railroads, and got a 36-cent minimum wage "which is estimated to provide for increases of more than $60,000,000 a year for more than 60,000 workers, about 40,000 of them maintenance of way employes."

REA PLANS ELECTRIC LINES FOR DEFENSE

Washington, D. C.—Harry Slattery, Rural Electrification Administrator, made available to the National Defense Council standard plans and specifications for building electric transmission lines. These will permit speedy and efficient construction of power lines in any part of the country where national defense may require them. They are designed not to meet any specific local situation but to be available for any need, emergency or otherwise, which may confront the Defense Council.

A. F. L. Chief and Secretary-Treasurer Meany Present Platform Recommendations to Democrats.

Chicago, Ill.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor told the Democratic National Convention here that the Roosevelt Administration has "done everything in its power to solve the unemployment problem."

Appearing with Secretary-Treasurer Meany before the Resolutions Committee to present the Federation's platform recommendations, Mr. Green thoroughly refuted CIO charges that the Administration neglected the jobless. He said:

"No President has done more to meet this problem than has President Roosevelt. I am one American citizen who believes that if the President is permitted to handle this unemployment problem he will succeed in solving it."

In response to questions later by newspapermen, Mr. Green said this statement had "no third-term significance."

Asked by Senate Majority Leader Barkley whether labor standards should be lowered in the interest of national defense, Mr. Green declared:

"It is the duty of the Government here to place this army of unemployed in jobs where they are needed in the defense program. The standards we have won through legislation and collective bargaining should be maintained.

"If the time ever comes when labor is called upon to make sacrifices for the nation's safety, we will be ready to make such sacrifices as all citizens will be required to make."

Senator Wagner, who presided at the committee session, remarked that efforts are being made in some quarters to suspend labor's rights of collective bargaining on the plea of a national emergency. Mr. Green replied:

"When you strike at that right, you strike at democracy and we cannot afford to do that in this country."

Pleading for earnest consideration of the A. F. of L. platform recommendations, Mr. Green declared that famine and pestilence will follow in the wake of the "three horsemen who are riding rough-shod over Europe." Unemployment after the war in England, he said, will be more acute and intense throughout the world than ever before.

At the conclusion of his statement, the Resolutions Committee on motion of Senator Harrison unanimously voted its thanks to Mr. Green for his "splendid presentation."

The A. F. of L. delegation appearing before the Resolutions Committee included, besides Mr. Green and Mr. Meany, Daniel J. Tobin, president of the Teamsters; Andrew Myrup, Executive Secretary of the Bakery Workers, and a large number of additional A. F. of L. union officials from all over the country.

The platform declarations submitted by Mr. Green to the Democratic convention were the same as those presented last month to the Republican convention.

Featuring the recommendations was the demand for representation in the President's cabinet by the appointment of an A. F. of L. official as Secretary of Labor. Mr. Green declared that the American Federation of Labor is the dominant labor organization in the country and as such should be officially recognized as the spokesman for American labor. He said the A. F. of L. now has more than 4,500,000 paid-up members and an additional "floating membership" which pays a nominal initiation fee, is unemployed or are unable to keep up their dues for other reasons.

Main AFL Planks to Protect Workers Submitted to Democratic Convention

Chicago, Ill.—Following is a summary of the major recommendations presented by President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany of the American Federation of Labor to the Resolutions Committee of the Democratic National Convention here:

NATIONAL DEFENSE.—The administration and formulation of defense measures must include labor representation. There must be no lowering of minimum wage, maximum hour and social security standards, and provision should be made for dismissal wages to protect workers against privation in readjustments of industry. Moreover, standards must not be weakened without agreement of the union concerned.

SUPERVISORY ACTIVITIES.—Organizations seeking to overthrow by force the form of government of the United States should be investigated and prosecuted.

ANTI-TRUST LAWS.—These laws should be amended in clear language incapable of misinterpretation or circumvention exempting labor unions from prosecution under them. In addition, appropriations should be opposed for anti-trust prosecutions lacking certain safeguards for labor.

RIGHT TO ORGANIZE.—Reiteration of the fundamental principles and policies of the National Labor Relations Act, but with impartial administration of these policies free from partisanship and bias.

UNEMPLOYMENT.—Public relief must be continued. There should also be a long range program of public works including such national defense projects as transcontinental express highways, building of hospitals and airport construction. New channels for private investment in industry must be found, and a reemployment finance corporation should be established under which the Reconstruction Finance Corporation would be authorized to guarantee part of time loans to job-creating industries.

WAGES AND HOURS.—A declaration favoring the principle of higher wages and shortening the hours of work without reducing the purchasing power of the workers involved.

SOCIAL SECURITY.—The present program should be expanded and perfected including: No reduction in unemployment compensation taxes until benefits are substantially written, the extension of old-age insurance to all wage earners, insurance against permanent disability; adoption of a national health insurance program; extension of an industrial hygiene agency in the Department of Labor to protect workers against occupational hazards.

HOUSING.—A public housing program should be endorsed, with the continuation and expansion of the slum clearance and low-rent housing program of the U. S. Housing Authority.